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TOKYOPOP

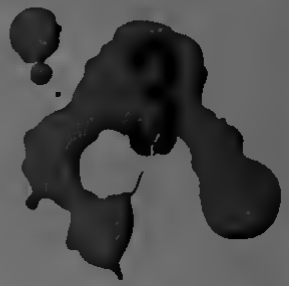
REDRUM

THREETWENTYSEVEN

YA-SEONG KO

3

REDRUM 327



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REDRUM THREETWENTYSEVEN

VOLUME 3
BY
YA-SEONG KO

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

HA - A STRAIGHT-TALKING GUY WITH HIS OWN HIP-HOP GROUP.

JEONGUN - SON OF A FAMOUS DESIGNER. HAS A THING FOR GAHUI AND DOESN'T CARE WHO KNOWS

HYERI - INTRODUCED GAHUI TO REST OF THE GROUP. HAS A HUGE CRUSH ON TAEIN

GIHU - VERY QUIET AND RESERVED. OFTEN PICKED ON BY REST OF THE GROUP

CAST OF CHARACTERS

TAEIN - THE "NICE GUY" OF THE GROUP. HE FALLS FOR GAHUI PRETTY QUICKLY

JUEUN - THE RICHEST MEMBER OF THE CLIQUE. HAS A VERY ICY PERSONALITY.

GAHUI - RECENTLY JOINED THE CLIQUE. OCCASIONALLY, SHE IS HAUNTED BY SOMETHING UNSEEN.

LAST TIME IN...

REDRUM THREETWENTYSEVEN

YESTERDAY, SEVEN COLLEGE STUDENTS SET OUT FOR A WEEKEND GETAWAY AT A REMOTE MOUNTAIN VILLA...BUT EVENTS QUICKLY TURNED SOUR. GAHUI, A BEAUTIFUL GIRL WHO WAS JUST INTRODUCED TO THE GROUP BY THE BUBBLY HYERI, BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE DISTURBING HALLUCINATIONS. THE ICY JUEUN AND STUBBORN HA WERE FIGHTING CONSTANTLY. JEONGUN, THE MEATHEAD OF THE GROUP, MADE A DRUNKEN ASS OF HIMSELF. AND EVERYONE BUT GAHUI AND TAEIN WAS CONSTANTLY PICKING ON THE QUIET, RESERVED GIHU. BUT THINGS REALLY GOT BAD WHEN HYERI, WHO HAD A CRUSH ON TAEIN, DISCOVERED HIM LOCKED IN EMBRACE WITH GAHUI. FURIOUS, SHE FLED THE HOUSE...ONLY TO BE STRUCK DOWN BY AN UNKNOWN ASSAILANT. THE CREW, ASSUMING SHE HAD DRIVEN HOME, DID NOT HEAR HER SCREAMS.

HOWEVER, THEY DID NOTICE SOMETHING WAS WRONG THIS MORNING, WHEN THEY FOUND A POISONED JEONGUN DEAD IN A RIVER OF HIS OWN HACKED-UP BLOOD. THEN TAEIN DISCOVERED HYERI'S BODY IN THE FREEZER, WRAPPED IN DUCT TAPE AND BLUDGEONED TO DEATH. AND JUEUN WAS JUST SHOVED TO HER DEATH FROM A SECOND-FLOOR BALCONY BY A COLD, CALCULATING GIHU. WITH HER LAST BREATH, SHE CRIED OUT FOR HA...

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.

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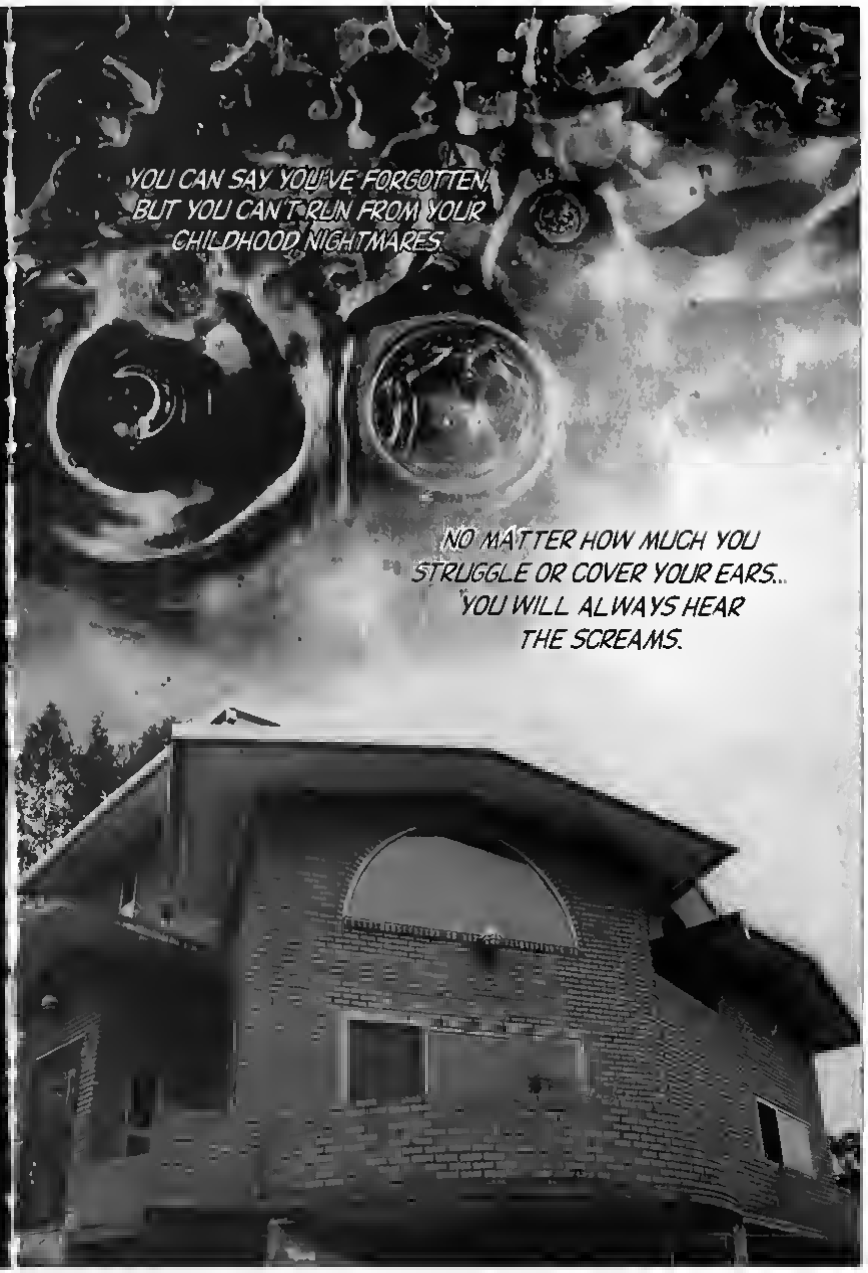

YOU CAN SAY YOU'VE FORGOTTEN,
BUT YOU CAN'T RUN FROM YOUR
CHILDHOOD NIGHTMARES.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU
STRUGGLE OR COVER YOUR EARS...
YOU WILL ALWAYS HEAR
THE SCREAMS.

1892

YOU WILL ALWAYS HEAR
IT FALL APART.
YOU WILL ALWAYS HEAR IT,
JUST BENEATH YOUR FEET.
REDRUM327

#1 : Bloody Bride

DID YOU GUYS HEAR ABOUT THE CATFIGHT IN THIRD PERIOD?
I HEARD IT WAS BETWEEN TWO FRIENDS
YEAH, AND ALL OVER HA PARK! YOU HEARD ABOUT HOW HE DUMPED HIS GIRLFRIEND AND STARTED SEEING SOMEONE ELSE, RIGHT? WELL, THOSE WERE THE GIRLS
MAN! WHAT A PIG!
HE MIGHT AS WELL DATE EVERY GIRL AT THIS SCHOOL
FINE WITH ME, AS LONG AS I GET MY TURN!
HE IS A LOOKER

SHUT UP!

SIGH
HE'S SO COOL

IT IS DECIDED
THIS TRADITION HAS BEEN IN OUR FAMILIES FOR YEARS

WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT, THE ELDERS HAVE SPOKEN
IF IT WERE UP TO ME I'D PUT YOU THROUGH THE ENGAGEMENT CEREMONY RIGHT AWAY BUT IN THIS DAY AND AGE, MOVING TOO QUICKLY MIGHT BE A BAD IDEA
SO JUST BEHAVE YOURSELVES UNTIL THEN
WHEN THE TIME COMES, I'D LIKE FOR YOU TO COME AND TAKE JUEUN AWAY, HA PARK
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'VE DONE THIS
WHY ARE THEY MESSING WITH OUR LIVES?!
WELL, THEY CAN FORGET IT. I ALREADY HAVE

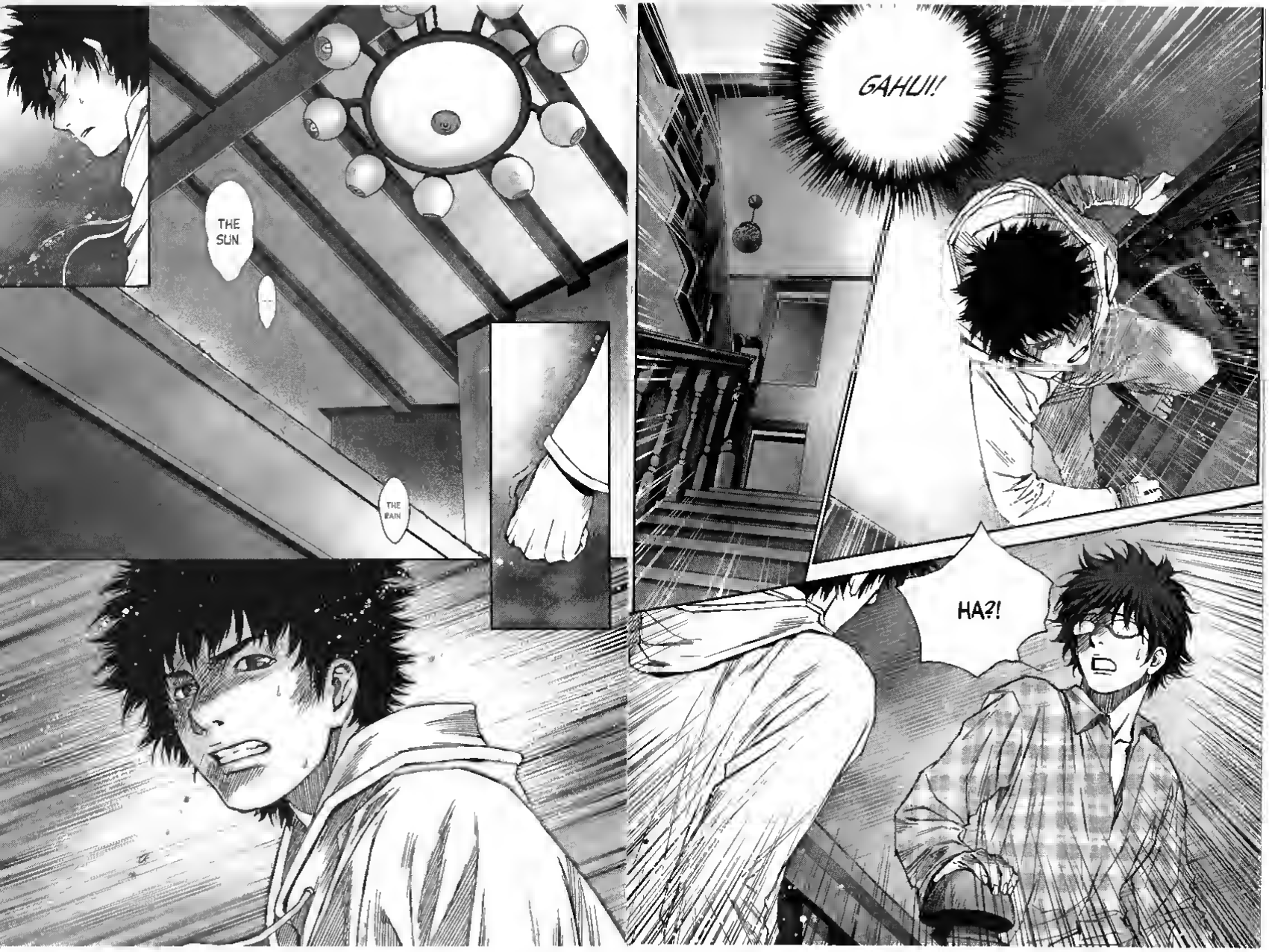
I WOULDN'T WANT ANY RUMORS GOING AROUND
.....
IS THAT HER?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY JUST FOUGHT LIKE THAT
HA PARK DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THAT CRAP LOOK AT HER SHE'S TOTALLY LEADING HIM ON!
LOOK AT HER, LAUGHING LIKE A BIMBO
TRAMP

I KNOW
THEN SAVE
CAN
ARE YOU LISTENING?
BUT IT'S JUST GETTING GOOD
JUST A FEW MORE SECONDS!
OOH, STOP...
AH
HUH?!
OOH!
HEY
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS LET'S GO
YOU WANT TO GO ALREADY?
GET OFF ME WOULD YA?
WHA?!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!

COULD YOU JUST STOP BLABBING FOR ONE SECOND? YOU'RE SO NOISY
WHAT AM I DOING?
WHAT DID I DO?!
YOU ARE SO MEAN!
NONE OF THIS WILL CHANGE ANYTHING.

THERE'S BLOOD EVERYWHERE! WHAT HAPPENED?
THIS ISN'T RIGHT.
WHAT [illegible] TO YOU, JUELIN?

SHE CAN'T BE DEAD.
...SO SUDDENLY?
HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED.
PLEASE. NO.
PLEASE.
DON'T PUNISH ME LIKE THIS.
THEY ALL REMEMBERED
THE FOREST


THE SUN
THE RAIN
GAHUI!
HA?!

WAIT A SECOND. THAT'S--!
STAY OUT OF THIS, PUNK!
WAIT! HA, WAIT!
I'M GOING TO KILL HER.
THE RAIN...
IT WAS RAINING
AND SO COLD

STILL?
YOU'RE STILL THAT DAMN KID IN THE FOREST FROM 13 YEARS AGO, AREN'T YOU?
IS THIS HOW YOU WANT REVENGE? DOES THIS REALLY MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER?

YOU WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL YOU KILL EVERY LAST ONE OF US, WILL YOU?
THAT WAS 13 YEARS AGO! WE'D MOVED ON WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BRING IT BACK UP?
WHY NOW?

WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE NOW?!
I HADN'T EVEN TOLD HER YET...!
HA...?
SHOULD I HAVE DIED IN THAT FOREST?
IS THAT WHAT EVERYONE WANTED?

WOULD THAT HAVE MADE IT ALL BETTER?
YES.
WE ALL WOULD'VE BEEN BETTER OFF!
EVERY TIME I THOUGHT I'D FORGOTTEN YOU'D APPEAR IN MY DREAMS
I KILLED YOU SO MANY TIMES IN THOSE DREAMS

NOW IT'S TIME TO END THIS NIGHTMARE FOR GOOD!
!!!
STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
GAHU! DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

YOU WANNA DIE, PUNK?!
YOU...!

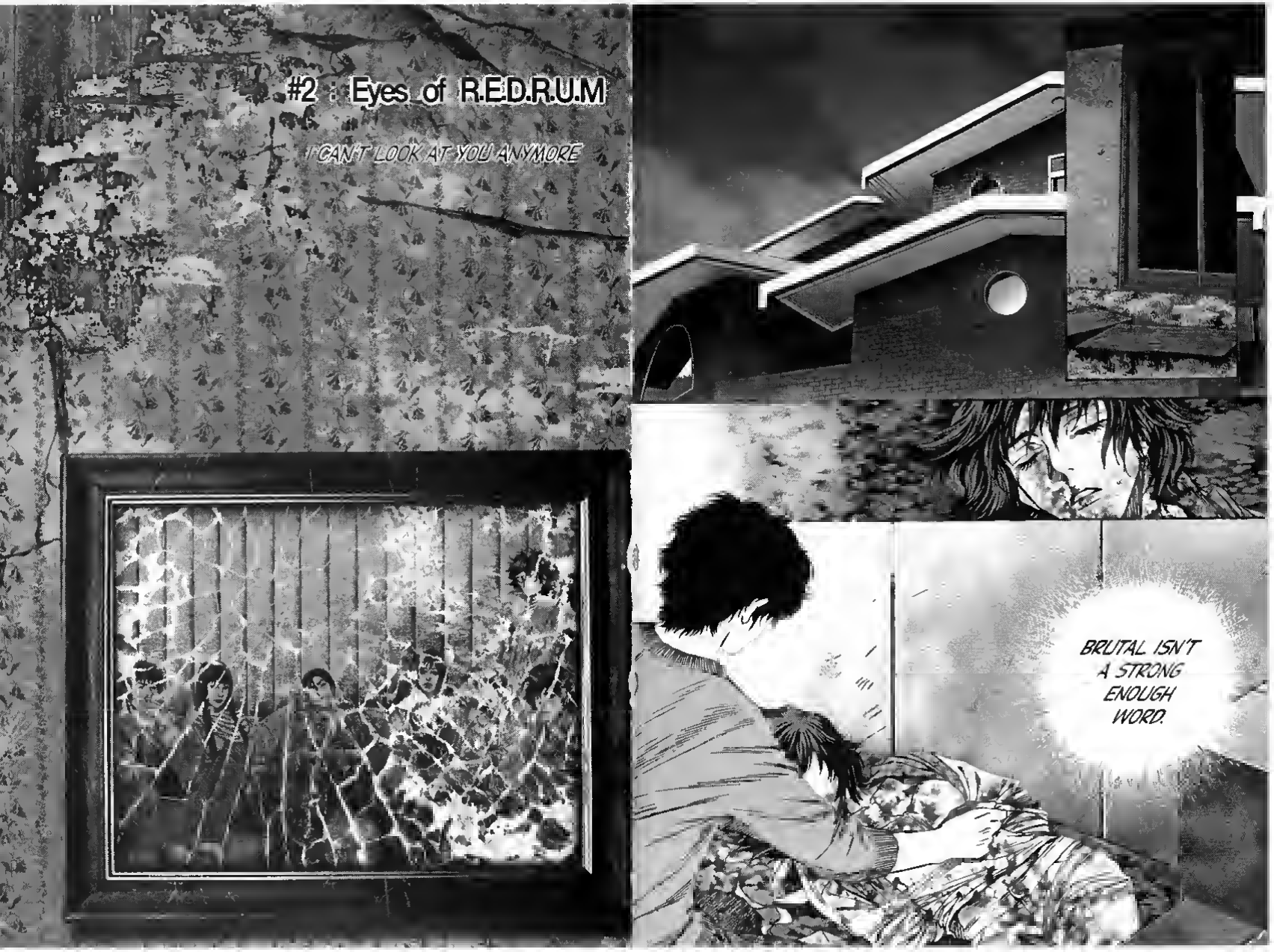
STAY OUT OF THIS!
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU...

...YOU'LL STAY RIGHT THERE!
KUH--!
!!
HUFF
COUGH!
AAAH

YOU MAKE ME SICK
EVEN NOW
HAH
HAH...
HAH
HAH
DIDN'T DO ANYTHING? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH YOU MAKE ME SICK
AND SHE SHOULDN'T EVEN EXIST IN THE FIRST PLACE!
I ALWAYS KNEW THIS WOULD END IN DEATH
SO THERE'S NOTHING TO THINK ABOUT

IF I WANT TO LIVE...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO DIE!!

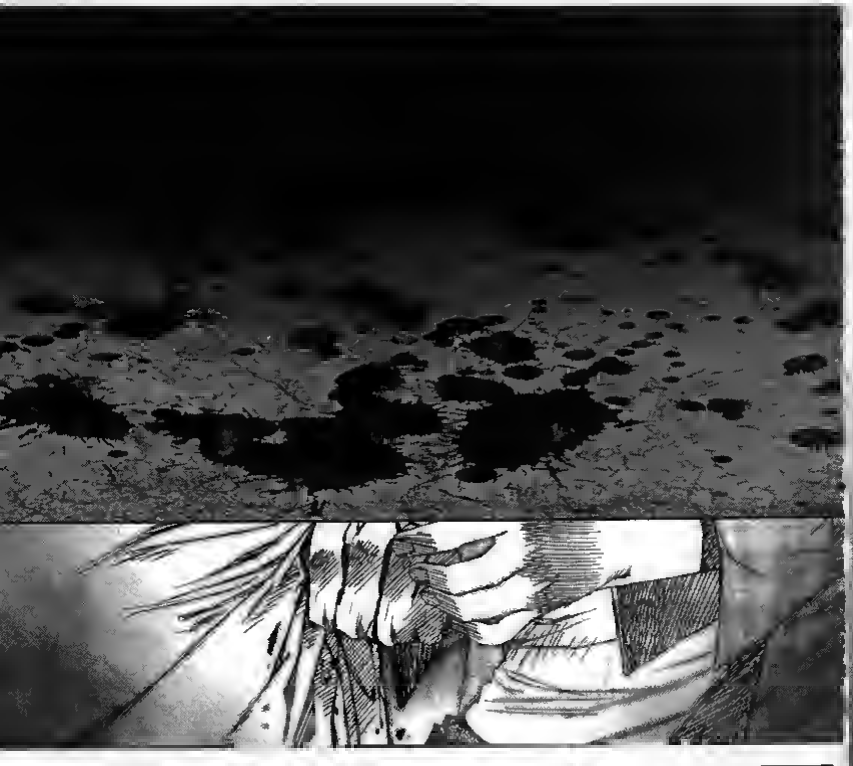
REDRUM327


#2 : Eyes of R.E.D.R.U.M
I CAN'T LOOK AT YOU ANYMORE
BRUTAL ISN'T A STRONG ENOUGH WORD.

EVEN THE TAPE IS HARD TO TAKE OFF.
IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF PUNISHMENT.
WHO COULD'VE DONE THIS?

AND WHY HYERI?
WHAT COULD SHE POSSIBLY HAVE DONE TO DESERVE THIS?

HYERI'S PHONE?
BEEP BEEP
SHE KNEW THERE WAS NO SIGNAL
♡♡ TAEIN
THE ZERO KEY IS BLOOD-STAINED.
YET SHE STILL TRIED IT.
THE NINE KEY HAS BLOOD ON IT, TOO.
NUMBER NINE?
GIHU LEE
BEEP
GIHU?
HYERI TRIED TO CALL GIHU?



SON OF A BITCH!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

BLOOD?
GIHU LEE!
THAT LITTLE PUSSY CUT ME!
AAAHH!

...HE CUT ME BAD.
HOW COULD HE--?!

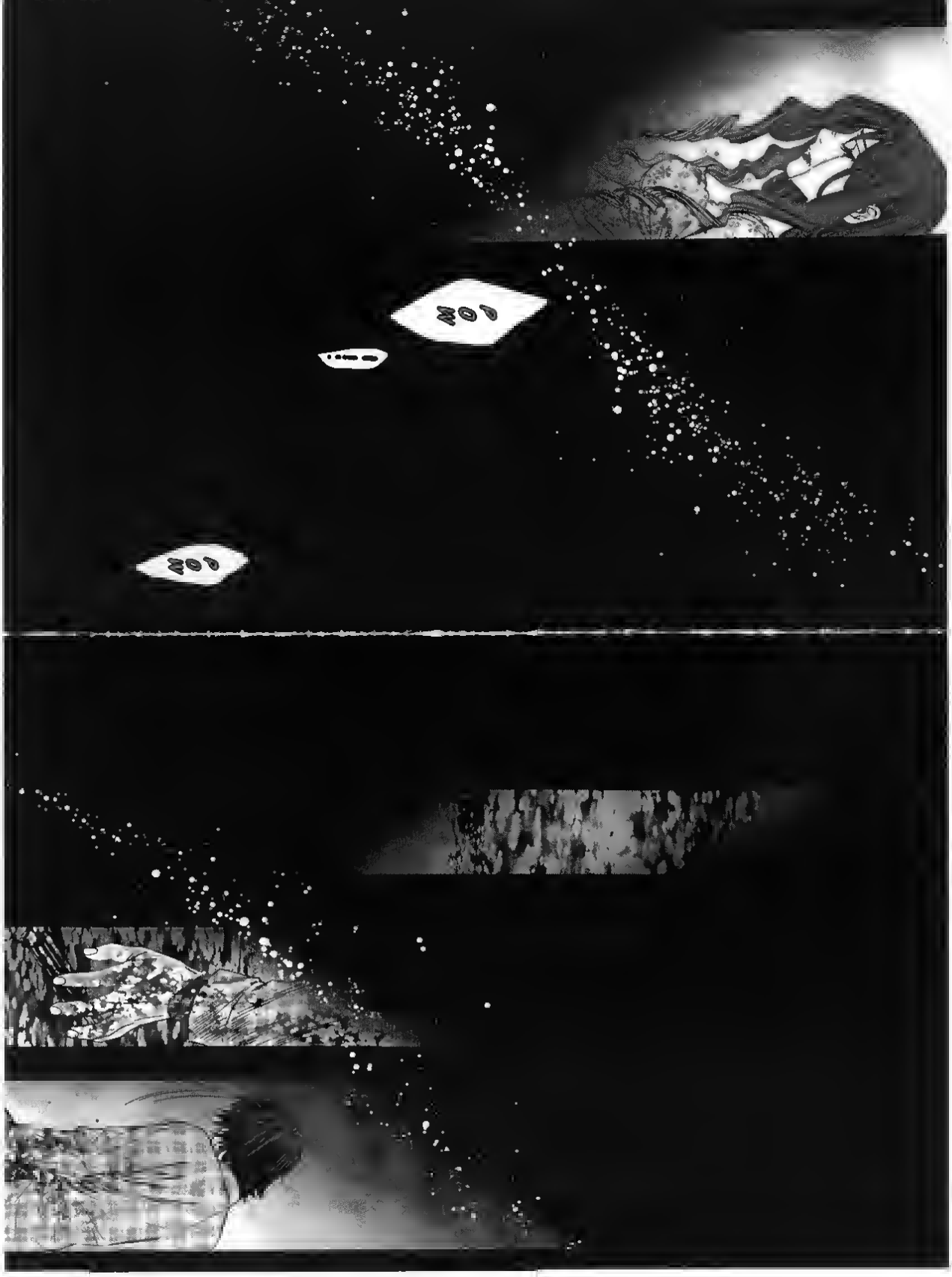
DAMN, GIHU!
KUH...
HAAAH...
HAH...
KUH

DID SHE CALL ANYONE BESIDES GIHU?
ADDRESS BOOK
RECIEVED CALLS
DIALED CALLS
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE IT.
WAS SHE TRYING TO TELL US SOMETHING?
OH, NO...

IS SHE TELLING US...WHO THE CULPRIT IS?
HAM.
HAM
DIALED CALLS
GIHU LEE 010-3298-1563
TAEIN 010-2318-9909
GIHU LEE 010-3298-1563

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D ASK FOR FORGIVENESS
I WAS RIGHT
NOW STOP RUNNING YOUR MOUTH AT GAHUI!
HAH...
HAH...
HAH...

DAMN...



DID GIHU DO THIS?
HYERI? JEONGUN? WHY?!
NO!
!!!
I'M SORRY, HYERI...
I WANT TO UNTIE YOU BUT FIRST I HAVE TO STOP GIHU!
WHY WOULD HE WANT THEM ALL DEAD?!

DON'T WORRY...I'LL BE BACK!

I KNEW THAT YOU LIKED EACH OTHER FROM THE MOMENT I SAW YOU
IT WOULD'VE BEEN SO SWEET
IF ONLY YOU HAD GOTTEN ALONG LIKE THIS FROM THE BEGINNING.

CONGRATULATIONS.

SORRY ABOUT ALL THE NOISE. IT'S ALMOST OVER NOW.
G\HUI...?

IN MY DREAM, I KEEP WANDERING AROUND THE SAME FOREST
I TRY RUNNING, AND HIDING...BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH I RUN, THE FOREST NEVER ENDS.
I GET SO TIRED THAT I GIVE UP AND IT STARTS TO DISAPPEAR BIT BY BIT
THAT'S HOW I MADE THE FOREST DISAPPEAR
I THOUGHT I WAS FREE.
BUT I WAS WRONG

YOU WERE THERE TOO, GIHU...
NO! YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!
YOU BLOCKED IT OUT TO ESCAPE THE PAIN!
THEY'RE THE EVIL ONES!
AND I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT THAT PAINFUL MEMORY BACK!
SO DON'T BE SORRY IF YOU REMEMBER ME.
YOU'LL REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN
PLEASE...

TRY TO FORGET ABOUT ME, TOO.
REDRUM327

#3 : Flashback I
THIRTEEN YEARS AGO
!!!

WHAT'S ALL THIS BLOOD?
I HOPE NOBODY ELSE WAS
HA, ARE YOU OVER THERE?
WHERE IS EVERYONE? WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT'S GOING ON?!

AAAHHH!
HOW COULD THIS HAVE HAPPENED?
THEY WERE FINE JUST A MOMENT AGO.
DON'T THEY LOOK HAPPY?
COUGH!

MY HEAD HURTS...
WHY DOES MY BODY FEEL SO HEAVY?
HELP ME...
GIHU! WHY?!
GULP!
AARGH!
I CAN'T MOVE MY LEGS!

I CAN'T MOVE!
HAH
HAH
WHAT DID HE DO?!
I'M SORRY BUT IF I HADN'T DONE IT..
YOU WOULD HAVE KILLED ME.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS, GIHU?!
I TRIED TO PICK A SPOT THAT WAS LESS PAINFUL.
WELL...
WHY DO YOU THINK?
BUT WHAT HAVE WE EVER DONE TO YOU?!
THIS IS SICK. YOU HEAR ME?! IT'S INHUMAN!

INHUMAN?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD BRING UP HUMANITY
THOUGH MAYBE NOT THAT FUNNY AFTER ALL, YOU'RE A FINE
HUH ?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
UPSTANDING CITIZEN
NOT THE SLIGHTEST STAIN ON TAEIN'S RECORD
YOU SEEM, IF I MAY SAY SO, PERFECT
BUT YOU KNOW THE MOST WONDERFUL THING ABOUT BEING HUMAN
...IS FORGIVENESS ONLY HUMANS CAN FORGIVE
ANY ANIMAL CAN FORGET.

NO ONE TOLD A SOUL. WE JUST DECIDED TO FORGET ABOUT IT
WHA... WHAT...?
DOES GIHU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED BACK THEN?
BUT IT HAUNTS US ALL FROM DEEP WITHIN.

CHILDHOOD.
THE DIRECTOR IS SUCH A PAIN!
I'M AN OLD CHUM OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT
YOU MUST MEET MY SURGEON!
THAT GOLDEN PARACHUTE MIGHT COME IN HANDY
THAT'S HER? THE DAUGHTER OF THE FORMER PRESIDENT?
OH, MY...
I GUESS THEY HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TAKE CARE OF HER. THEY CAN'T IGNORE THE PUBLICITY.
ARE YOU ALONE?
?
YOU'VE BEEN ALONE THIS WHOLE TIME.
ALL THESE ADULTS... AREN'T YOU BORED?

I CAME WITH MY PARENTS
SO OF COURSE I'M BORED
WHO ARE YOU?
OH! I JUST CAME UP AND STARTED TALKING OUT OF THE BLUE
MY NAME'S TAEIN NICE TO MEET YOU
WHO'S THAT?

SO, I HEAR YOU RE AN ORPHAN
I DION T KNOW THAT
WELL I DID DIDN'T YOU, JEONGUN?
OH YEAH THE KID BEING RAISED BY HER UNCLE?
HER MOM AND DAD DIED AND HER UNCLE TOOK HER IN FOR THE MONEY OR SOMETHING RIGHT?
SO... WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
MY MOM SAYS KIDS WITHOUT PARENTS ARE BAD NEWS
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING HYERI?
WHAT?
I DION T SAY I BELIEVED HER
HOW COULD YOU EVEN SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
WHAT'S WITH YOU?
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D GET MAD AT HYERI
GULP
I'M NOT MAD! I'M JUST ASKING A QUESTION!

TAEIN IS MAD AT ME
WAAH!
LET'S GO I'LL TAKE YOU HOME
AH..
WAIT A MINUTE, TAEIN
I HAVEN'T MET EVERYONE YET
WHAT'S WITH TAEIN? SHE HIS NEW BEST FRIEND?
GUESS HE'D RATHER BE WITH HER THAN WITH US HMPH!
I DON'T LIKE HER
I CAN'T LET THIS GO.

WAIT
I HAVE AN IDEA.
YOU SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE.
THERE'S NOTHING MORE DANGEROUS THAN A CHILD'S MIND.

YOU CAN COMMIT SUCH EVIL DEEDS...AND NOT EVEN KNOW THEY'RE EVIL.

TAG! NOW YOU'RE IT!
DON'T GET ALL SCARED. THIS IS JUST A GAME.
OKAY! YOU'RE UP!
COUNT TO 100. THEN COME OUT. IF YOU COME OUT BEFORE THAT, WE GET TO BEAT YOU UP!
HEY! WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?
STOP IT!
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS, TAEIN!

WHY ARE YOU TAKING HER SIDE? YOU HARDLY KNOW HER!
I DON'T LIKE IT.
WHAT?
I DON'T LIKE HOW FRIENDLY YOU TWO ARE!

HYERI?
HEY, YOU!

I DON'T LIKE HOW YOU CHANGE FOR HER!
IT'S KILLING ME!
I CAN'T TAKE IT!

YOU'RE TAKING THIS TOO FAR TAEIN
NOW HYERI'S ALL SAD AND YOU'RE STILL TAKING THAT DUMB GIRLS SIDE
SO WHAT'S IT GONNA BE?
HER...OR US?

I'M SORRY.
THEY'RE MY FRIENDS...
I'M SORRY...!

TAEIN! HELP ME!
PLEASE
HELP

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#4 : Flashback II
THE NIGHTMARE OF THE PAST HAS BECOME A REALITY.

"I'M SORRY"?
KUH
WAS THAT REALLY IT?
WAS THAT ALL I COULD SAY?

THAT'S THE LIMIT OF YOUR UNDERSTANDING?
THAT'S JUST ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF YOUR LACK OF COMPASSION
IF ONLY IF IT HAD ENDED THERE...
TAEIN, CAN YOU COME OVER HERE FOR MOMENT? I NEED TO SPEAK TO YOU
WHAT IS IT, DAD?
HELLO
WE'RE FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT WE HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS TO ASK
HAVE YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS SEEN THIS KID RECENTLY? WE'RE LOOKING FOR HER
SHE HASN'T BEEN HOME IN THREE DAYS--
YOU'RE ASKING THIS OF A CHILD? I DON'T THINK HE KNEW HER THAT WELL..
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, SIR

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HEAR ANYTHING
OH, NO. WHAT HAPPENED?!
NO WAY! I DIDN'T LOCK ANYTHING!
ANYWAY A LOT OF PEOPLE GO THROUGH THERE SHE COULDN T HAVE JUST GOT LOST
YEAH MAYBE SHE JUST RAN AWAY
BUT WE TOOK HER THERE
SO WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO GO SQUEAL? YOU KNOW WHAT LL HAPPEN IF YOU DO
THE POLICE WILL TAKE US AWAY
AND OUR PARENTS WILL GET REALLY MAD!
YEAH WE LL ALL BE IN TROUBLE
WE CAN T TELL ANYONE ABOUT THIS!
NEVER!!!

YOU DIDN T WANT TO LOSE YOUR FRIENDS YOU DIDN'T WANT TO BE A RAT
YOU WOULD RATHER HAVE DIED WOULDN'T YOU?
AND...

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?
N-NO...
THERE WAS NOTHING WE COULD DO WE JUST PRETENDED IT NEVER HAPPENED
HOW DO YOU KNOW ALL THIS, ANYWAY?
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!

I FOUND OUT IN THE HOSPITAL.
I WAS SEVEN YEARS OLD
THAT'S WHEN I MET THE CRYING GIRL
MUST'VE BEEN MORE PAINFUL THAN I COULD IMAGINE.
SCHIZOPHRENIA
SHE SEEMED ALL RIGHT AT FIRST GLANCE
BUT THE INSTANT THINGS TURNED DARK SHE'D GO CRAZY.

THAT GIRL HARDLY EVER GOT A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP
EVEN IF SHE DID FALL ASLEEP, SHE'D WAKE UP SCREAMING.
IT TOOK THEM FIVE DAYS...
SHE WAS ON THE BRINK OF DEATH WHEN THEY FOUND HER IN THAT SAFE.
WHA?!
H-HOW--?!
IT WAS A MIRACLE.
AN EIGHT-YEAR-OLD CAN'T ESCAPE FROM A LOCKED SAFE ON HER OWN.

AFTER YOU PUT HER THERE...
...IT RAINED FOR TWO DAYS STRAIGHT
SHE MUST'VE BEEN PRAYING FOR DEATH EVERY MOMENT
THE WATER FILLED THE SAFE ALMOST TO THE TOP CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW HARD SHE STRUGGLED?

FOUR MORE DAYS PASSED FINALLY SOME HIKERS FOUND HER
EVEN HER NAILS HAD FALLEN OFF.

OVER THE YEAR I KNEW HER IN THE HOSPITAL...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'D SAY EVERY TIME SHE ACTED UP?
GET AWAY! PLEASE! I'M SCARED!
SOMEBODY! PUNISH THEM!

I ONLY KNEW HER FOR ONE YEAR...BUT SHE WAS SO SPECIAL TO ME
EVERY TIME SHE CRIED OUT LIKE THAT...
...I MADE A PLEDGE TO MYSELF.
I WOULD FIND THE ONES WHO DID IT... AND KILL THEM
TURNED OUT TO BE EASIER THAN I THOUGHT
AS YOU ALL LOVE TO POINT OUT, I HAVE RICH FOSTER PARENTS

YOU WERE JUST AS I IMAGINED YOU'D BE.
ARROGANT, TWO-FACED SCUMBAGS.
AND I...
...WAS GLAD.
WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANYTHING FOR THE TWO YEARS YOU VE KNOWN ME?
WHY DIDN T YDU DD IT BACK THEN?

BUT IT DIDN'T.
THERE WAS A CHANCE THIS MIGHT HAVE ENDED DIFFERENTLY.

AFTER REHABILITATION, SHE FORGOT ABOUT ALL HER BAD MEMORIES.
SHE BECAME THAT HOSPITAL DIRECTOR'S FOSTER CHILD
SHE GOT A NEW LEASE ON LIFE
SHE WAS HAPPY
IF ONLY SHE HADN'T MET UP WITH YOU ALL AGAIN

REDRUM 327

#5 : Requiem
THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY OUT

IT WAS CRUEL FATE.
THIS GODLESS WORLD BROUGHT THEM BACK TOGETHER.
IT NEVER HAD TO HAPPEN.

GIHU!
THAT CAN'T BE!
HOW?!
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?
I RAN AWAY CRYING THE WHOLE TIME.
HOW COULD WE HAVE DONE THAT?
HOW COULD THAT HAVE BEEN GAHUI?

DOES IT HURT, MY FRIEND?
YOU BROUGHT THIS UPON YOURSELF. IT DIDN'T HAVE TO HAPPEN.
AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT.
ALWAYS TRYING TO BE THE "NICE GUY".
BUT YOU SUCKERED HER IN NOW, YOU SUCKERED HER IN THEN.
YOU HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT YOURSELF.

I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR VIRTUOUS BULLSHIT
JUST ONCE, I THOUGHT I'D HEAR YOU SPEAK THE TRUTH.
I THOUGHT--
NO. YOU'RE WRONG, GIHU.
GAHUI!

HEY, GAHUI.
IT'S ALMOST OVER.

JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T SEE INTO SOMEONE'S HEART DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T LEARN TO TRUST THEM.
TAEIN WAS A GOOD PERSON THEN AND HE'S A GOOD PERSON NOW
BUT THAT WASN'T LOVE I FELT FROM TAEIN.
I JUST WANTED IT TO BE.

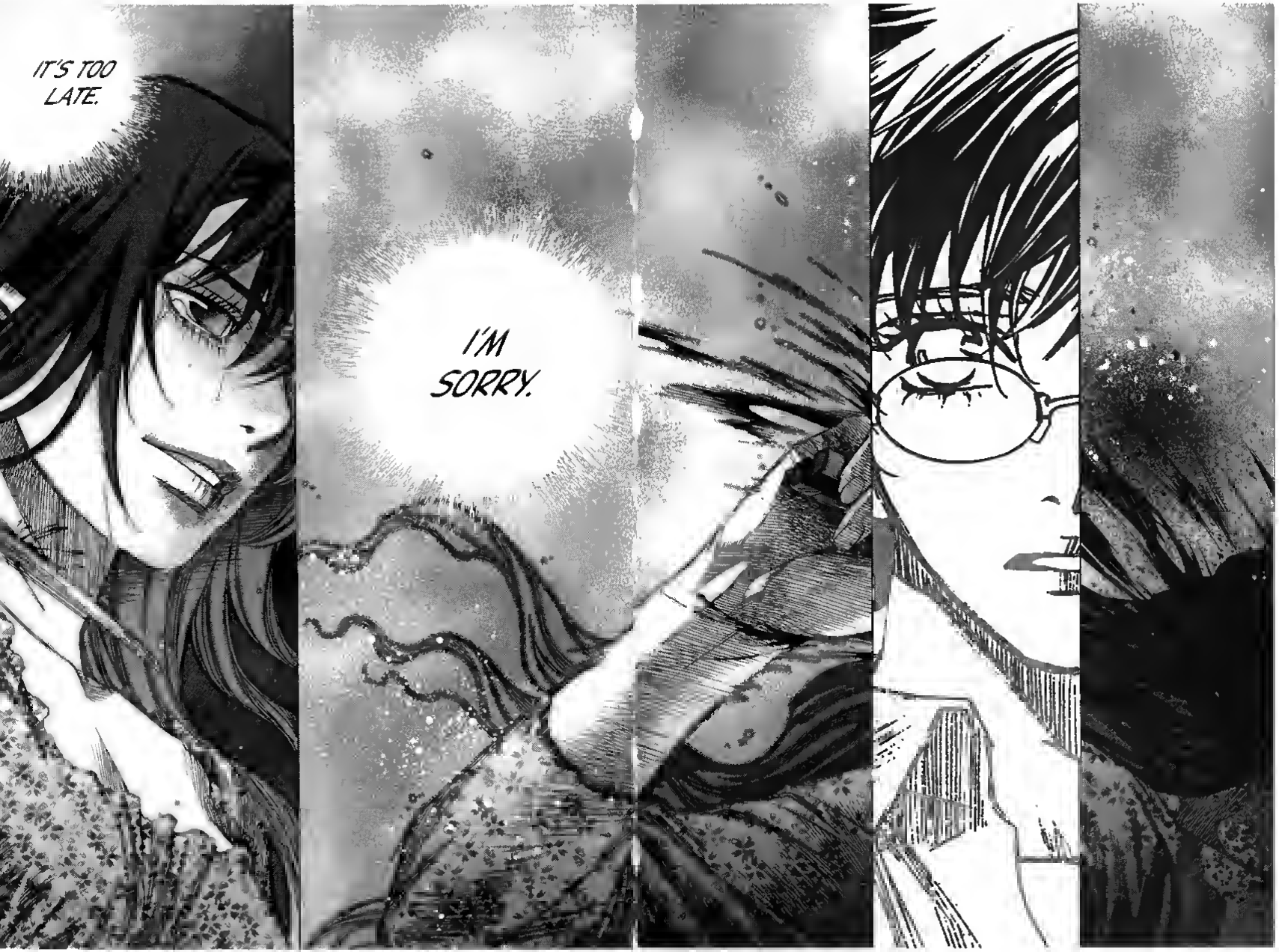
I DON'T HOLD ANYTHING AGAINST TAEIN.
GAHUI...
I SHOULD HAVE DIED THAT DAY.
I ACCEPT IT NOW.
I'M SORRY.
NO, TAEIN. I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE SORRY
THE FACT THAT I'M STILL ALIVE BROUGHT THIS ON ALL OF US HERE TONIGHT.

I THINK THAT'S WHAT PAINS ME THE MOST.
THE NIGHTMARE OF THAT FOREST...
...SHOULD HAVE BEEN MINE ALONE.
LET HIM GO, GIHU.
NO!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN IT'S YOUR FAULT?! YOU DID NOTHING WRONG!
THEY TRIED TO KILL YOU!
LET ME FULFILL MY PROMISE!

GIHU...
I SHOULD HAVE LEFT THAT SOUL IN THE FOREST, TOO.
WHAT DID I DO TO YOU?

I DON'T DESERVE TO BE HAPPY.
I NEVER MEANT TO HOLD YOUR SOUL AS COLLATERAL
I WISH I COULD HAVE DONE THIS SOONER

BLOOD?
GAHUI?
IT'S OKAY.
I RELEASE YOU, GIHU.
NO! GAHUI!


IT'S TOO LATE.
I'M SORRY.

GAHUI!
NO!
DON'T DO THIS!
THIS ISN'T WHAT I WANTED!
NOOOO!

GAHUI!
GAHU--
OOMPH
NOO!
GAHUI!
I'M NOT SCARED ANYMORE.
I DON'T FEEL GUILTY OR VENGEFUL OR SAD
PLEASE... LET ME GO.
I DON'T WANT TO FORGET ANYMORE.

IS THIS REALLY HOW YOU WANT TO GO?
GA...
GAHUI...
GAHUI?
IS THIS IT?

YOU WANT IT TO END LIKE THIS?
IF I KILL YOU RIGHT HERE, TAEIN...
EVERYTHING WILL BE OVER AND FORGOTTEN.
WHAT WILL IT FEEL LIKE IF ALL THIS WERE TO REMAIN IN YOUR MEMORY?

IF YOU REMEMBER ME, YOU'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER ALL THESE PAINFUL EVENTS.
IT SEEMS LIKE I WANT TO BE REMEMBERED, EVEN IF THAT'S THE ONLY WAY
I JUST WANT TO BE REMEMBERED.

I WONDER WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE.

TAEIN...
I WANTED TO BELIEVE YOU JUST LIKE GAHUI DID.
BUT YOU COULD'VE PREVENTED IT ALL

IT ALL WENT SO WRONG...
I JUST WANTED HER TO LOVE ME.
I CAN'T FORGIVE YOU NOW, TAEIN

THIS ISN T SOMETHING THAT CAN BE FORGIVEN
IN THIS LIFE, OR THE NEXT.
I LOVED HER TAEIN.

REDRUM327

#6 : Silent anthology

...AND THEN THERE WAS ONE

IF WE FIND TIME WE'LL TRY TO MAKE IT OUT THERE
BUT HIS CONDITION ISN'T SO GOOD RIGHT NOW
THE DOCTORS SAY THAT HIS MENTAL HEALTH IS UNSTABLE. BUT IT MAY JUST BE AN AFTER EFFECT OF THE EXPLOSION
NOT THAT MUCH.
YES.
WE DON'T KNOW MUCH BEYOND THE POLICE REPORTS EITHER
HE WAS LUCKY TO GET AWAY WITH SUCH MINOR INJURIES.

WE UNDERSTAND.
YES. HE'S HAVING RECURRING NIGHTMARES. HE DOESN'T EAT.
I THINK WE'RE GOING TO THE COUNTRY FOR A WHILE.
IT'LL BE GOOD FOR HIM.
AND FOR US.
AH...
I KNOW THIS FOREST.
HA HA HA...
HEY, GUYS!

YOU'RE ALIVE! WHAT A RELIEF!
!!
MY LEG HURTS!
I CAN'T GET UP! MY LEG!
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU GUYS GOING? WAIT FOR ME!

GUYS! PLEASE!
DON'T LEAVE ME HERE ALONE!
TAKE ME!

!!
GAHU!
GIHU?

THIS ISN'T THE END...
IT'S MERELY THE BEGINNING OF YOUR PUNISHMENT
FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE...
REMEMBER.
GIHU?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU MUST LIVE!
YOU MUST REMEMBER IT ALL!
...THIS WILL BE YOUR NIGHTMARE!

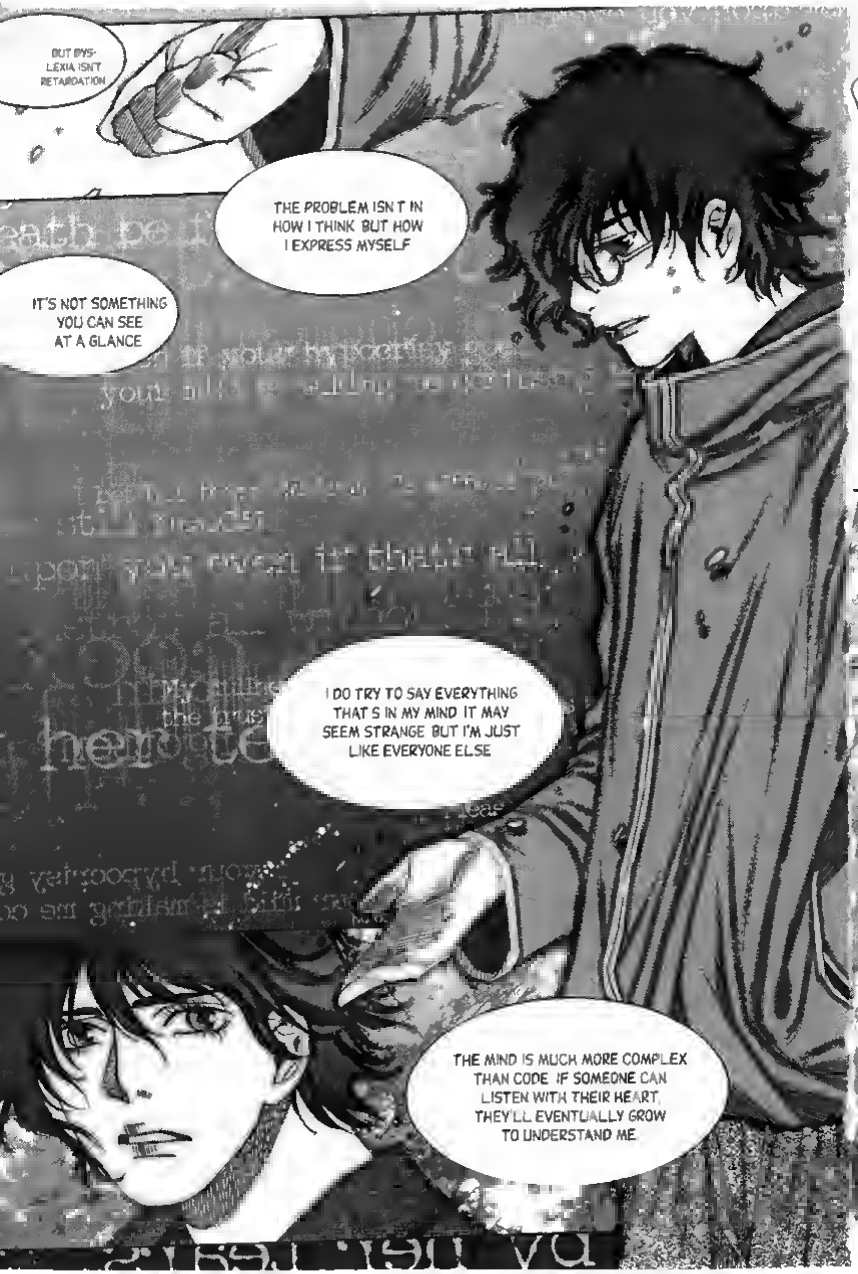
HAH!
SHHH
IT'S THAT DREAM AGAIN.
YOUR WORDS BECAME A CHAIN
I CAN'T ESCAPE. I CAN'T FORGET.
LIFE

WHENEVER GIHU GAVE ME A CODE..
I WAS SUPPOSED TO SOLVE IT... BUT I NEVER DID
Come on, get it right jur
I tried using substitution ciphering this time You learned about shift codes, right? Well, it's basic stuff
Click <here> to download the codes
Ok, fight on!
As always, the hint is "Redrum."
MAYBE THERE WAS NO ANSWER
As always, the hint is "Redrum."
REDRUM READ IT BACKWARDS
MURDER.
THESE ARE ALL THE EMAILS GIHU SENT TO ME

!!
REVERSE IT?
THAT CAN'T BE...!
Outlook Express
Local Folder
Received
Saved
Sent
Trash
Draft
Group
THIS SENTENCE
I think I solved it, but.
where's "the" supposed to go in... Why you scoundrel! The grammar doesn't even make sense! You didn't give me the question correctly!
Her loving quitting your is it is from you deliver to way only...
Receive Receive All
From Taein
Date 3/9/2003 Sunday
Send to Gihu Lee
Subject. I think this is it
Hesitate to needless to memory her from you of(?) rid get...
This is strange It's missing something. Is the grammar all mixed up or something? And... <-- What's this? This goes in The formula's right, but this sentence is.. There's another trick in there, right?
I'm gonna get you tomorrow!
THIS, TOO!
ALL THE WORDS WERE ARRANGED IN REVERSE ORDER!
Everyone's infancy be locked in the forest.
All of our childhoods are trapped in that forest.
Even your mild was nothing there
who can't remind of anythin
In a place where one can't even remember...
Your kindness didn't mean anything...
Cut off oil like mone,
ond if she gets rid of you from her memory,
needless to hesitate
If I can get rid of all you from her memory by shredding you all apart, I wouldn't hesitate at all.
May I coexis wi h the
e death be forgotten?
To her, I exist in e place more terrible then death itself... Should I be forgotten too?
THESE ALL REFER TO WHAT HAPPENED THAT DAY!

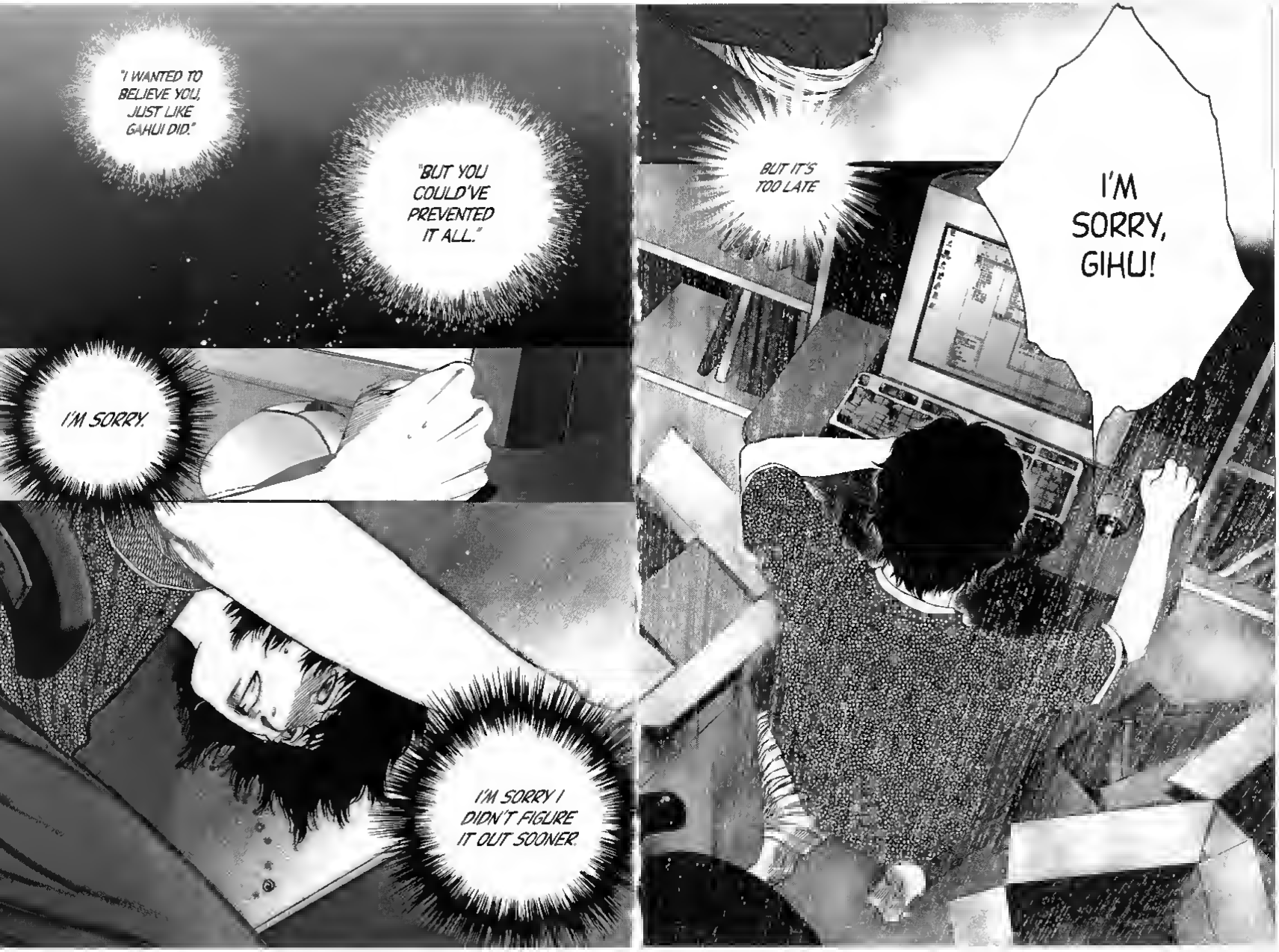
HOW COULD YOU?
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT DYSLEXIA?
HUH?
I'VE HEARD OF IT BUT DON'T KNOW MUCH

PEOPLE AREN'T SURE, BUT
I WAS BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK, WHEN MY MOTHER WAS 18
SOMETHING WAS ALWAYS A BIT OFF WITH ME I COULDN'T SPEAK TOO WELL..
AND IT WASN'T JUST SPEECH. SO PEOPLE THOUGHT I HAD SOME MENTAL PROBLEMS
I GUESS IT TOOK A TOLL ON MY MOTHER SHE HAD A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN...
...AND TRIED TO KILL ME WHEN I WAS SIX
OH, WOW..
I HAD A STRANGE WAY OF READING. I'D MEMORIZE CHARACTERS BY TAKING THEM APART
AND READ A WHOLE SENTENCE BACKWARDS
TO AN AVERAGE ADULT I'M SURE I LOOKED RETARDED


BUT DYSLEXIA ISN'T RETARDATION
THE PROBLEM ISN'T IN HOW I THINK BUT HOW I EXPRESS MYSELF
IT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN SEE AT A GLANCE
I DO TRY TO SAY EVERYTHING THAT'S IN MY MIND IT MAY SEEM STRANGE BUT I'M JUST LIKE EVERYONE ELSE
THE MIND IS MUCH MORE COMPLEX THAN CODE IF SOMEONE CAN LISTEN WITH THEIR HEART, THEY'LL EVENTUALLY GROW TO UNDERSTAND ME

MAN, YOU REALLY ARE STRANGE
WELL, WHEN I SOLVE ONE OF YOUR RIDDLES
MAYBE I'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE YOUR HEAD!
YEAH.
YOU'LL SEE.

WHEN YOU DO THAT.
...YOU'LL HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY
HOW COULD I BE SO STUPID.
YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL ME THIS WHOLE TIME!
I JUST IGNORED IT.
YOU'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL ME FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.


"I WANTED TO BELIEVE YOU, JUST LIKE GAHUI DID."
"BUT YOU COULD'VE PREVENTED IT ALL."
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T FIGURE IT OUT SOONER.
BUT IT'S TOO LATE
I'M SORRY, GIHU!

THIS PAIN..
...IS YOUR PAIN.
LOOKED IN THE CHILDHOOD WE LEFT BEHIND...
GIRL CRIED OUT TO US

FORGETTING?
OR BEING FORGOTTEN

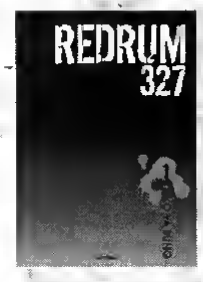
SUCH PAIN...

SUCH DEEP, DEEP PAIN.

REDRUM327

END

REDRUM 327



2003-2004

Redrum 327 is finally done! The past year has felt both long and short. But when I finished the project, I felt renewed perhaps because I'd never tried something new like this before. Looking back, this project was anguishing from the get-go. When I was first entrusted with a work called 'Redrum 327' a story about seven characters ensnared in a murder plot at a mountain villa, I thought, "Can I even do this?" At first, I didn't even have the courage to start (for those of you who don't know, the genre I normally work on is lowbrow humor)! But now that I'm done, I'm glad I did it. If it weren't for a chance like this, I never would've considered working on something serious like this. I never really think about serious matters like human relationships, difficulties between characters, mental states, etc. (stuff like that normally makes my head hurt). But working on a series of this genre made me consider them quite a bit. And it even made me question myself sometimes. I gave these characters the various emotions that I have felt, and made their interactions so complicated that it seemed like they couldn't be resolved, and then I just cut it off all of a sudden, or in some cases provided answers (though your interpretation of these answers may be subjective). That part of it was very sad for me! I'm sure you'll be able to relate to some of the characters, and for others, not at all! But if you consider each character in Redrum 327 as an individual, who would dare to peek inside at their true emotions? The story repeatedly states, 'One can never know another's true feelings.' And I tell the sad story of an event that could happen as a result of this fact--albeit a rather extreme one! The frustration of someone who doesn't have the answers, the pain that develops in the heart of someone who can't express their feelings... these are emotions that most of us have experienced in some way. My characters finally make some sense of this pain at the end of the story. If you were looking for some shocking conspiracy or mystery, you were probably disappointed, but if you could sympathize with the emotions of the characters, even just a little, then I think you will understand what I was going for with this story.

Gihu

Redrum...read it backwards. I think this word was the most suitable for the title as it showed the mental state of Gihu. In Redrum, Gihu has dyslexia. Dyslexia is known to inhibit normal reading skills. This word comes from the Greek words 'dys' (insufficient, unskilled) and 'lexis' (language). Dyslexia doesn't affect one's intelligence, it only gets in the way of one's ability to work with language. At times, people suffering from dyslexia show extraordinary talent in various other fields such as the arts, drama, mathematics, and sports. The only difficulty they have is expressing their thoughts into words. Gihu was extremely intelligent, but he had trouble expressing himself, or he believed that no one was able to understand him. Thus, he never really grew beyond the time he shared with the sole person that was able to understand and share his pain--the girl from his past.

REDRUM 327

Though he became an adult and was able to speak without many problems, he still had to speak in codes to express his true feelings--like the times he was suffering from dyslexia 13 years ago. The code was perhaps even more difficult to crack because he wanted others to crack it so badly. A young Gihu came up with the 'read it backward' trick. It's so easy when one thinks about it, but there is irony in that being an adult made this impossible to crack.

Redrum 327

Some of you have asked if I got the title from an episode of Boy Detective Kim Jeen-il,* but that's definitely not it. The title Redrum 327 was decided by Hun-Cheol Jeong of Star Mecha, who was also responsible for planning and producing the OST album. I also understand that this is a slang word used in hip hop, and is also well-known from a movie The Shining, so it may be more common than you think!

*Boy Detective Kim Jeen-il is the Korean title for the Japanese manga Kindaichi Shonen no Jikenbo.

Mountain Villa

The mountain villa that appears in Redrum is based on the house my parents live in. At first, they gladly accepted their house being used as model, but once they found out that the house would be blown up, they threatened me with death! Actually, they are having some landscape work done on it right now, so the entire house looks like a construction site. That's why we couldn't use it to film the music video. My dad, who built the house himself, was very sad about that.

Redrum 327 Music Video

This was the industry's first comic + music album production, so a lot of work went into the OST album as well. Actor Han-Seon Che and Singer Gihu appeared as himself in the video of the title track, "Tears that Cover the Skies." I really liked the song and Gihu's voice, so I'm looking forward to the album's release, which will coincide with the release of Redrum volume 3.

REDRUM 327

Last Words...

Editor Woo-Sic Kang...I don't know what to say to you for enduring the constant drama of my flexible deadlines. You'd probably better just kill me. But before you kill me, let me at least take you out for a giant meal!

Oh, and thanks to all the readers who purchased and read my book!

Did you know that *Redrum 327* is the first full series I've completed? Sniff, my first complete series since I debuted six years ago! Six years! I'm definitely a third-class author!

Nevertheless, if you can still deal with me, I'll finish *Under the Glass Moon* and try to come back with better work. You believe me, right?

Heh, well...I'll assume that you will, and just finish up the mess I've made.

Did you enjoy it?

Nothing would make me happier.

April 4, 2004
Ya-Seong Ko

REDRUM327

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REDRUM

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